

Cosbey Cautions Council On Book Ban

BY SALLY PITELKA

Robert C. Cosbey, professor of English at Roosevelt, was among those who testified before the January public hearing of the Chicago City Council Committee on Schools, which voted 8 to 3 to recommend that the full council call for the removal of James Baldwin's book "Another Country" from a reading list at Wright Junior College. (The council's resolution holds that the rights of college students are being infringed upon by the assignment of Baldwin's novel.)

Dr. Cosbey, testifying in favor of keeping the book on the reading list, stated "The issues at stake go much deeper than the question of whether or not this

particular novel has any literary merit.

"ONE ISSUE is whether young adults can be corrupted by reading a book. My answer to that, after 24 years of teaching literature in colleges, is that books in themselves have no such influence. I could wish that life were so simple and literature so influential that by assigning virtuous books and forbidding evil books we could keep our students virtuous. But neither literature nor virtue is that simple."

In posing the question of whether or not a book about "the seamy side of life" will make it more difficult "for the reader to maintain his virtue," Dr. Cosbey

answered that "virtue is neither acquired nor maintained in a vacuum." He quoted John Milton, who said "I admire not a cloistered virtue."

"BUT BY FAR the most important issue at stake," Dr. Cosbey continued, "is this: Should a college teacher be prohibited from assigning a novel of which we disapprove?"

"... This question takes us immediately to the heart of what we call academic freedom. Do we want to initiate the censorship of college teaching in Chicago? If we presume to tell a college teacher which materials he may or may not use, where shall we stop? There is no place to stop. We have then opened the door to censorship, and censorship is an absolute... I hope and believe that we shall never censor the materials of college classes."

Besides merely avoiding censorship, Dr. Cosbey pointed out that the positive argument for free choice of materials by teachers is "the absolute and positive importance of academic freedom."

"AND WHAT IS academic freedom? A better name for it is free inquiry. The right of free inquiry is absolutely essential to college education. Without it, there is no education, but only vocational training or propaganda."

"If a teacher is incompetent, fire him. If he is not incompetent, let him follow free inquiry, and encourage free inquiry, and instill in his students the spirit of free inquiry, unhampered by anyone's opinion about the merits of any particular work of art."

"That is the only way we can have an education worthy of free men," Dr. Cosbey concluded. "It is the only way we can have an educational system fit for the training of mature, decision-making citizens of a free and democratic country."

ALSO TESTIFYING at the hearing was Dr. George Steinbrecher, Jr., professor of English at Wright, who pointed out that "the Council has neither the professional competence nor the legal means" of really handling this question. "Questions of school curriculum should be settled in the school, not in the Council. State statutes are quite explicit about the limits of this body to deal with school matters, even financial school matters."

In a letter to Dr. Cosbey, Dr. Steinbrecher wrote: "Despite the deplorable performances—some of them—that one had to sit through, it was not wasted experience. One learned almost as much of ignorance, madness, and hate that afternoon as one learns in Baldwin. But it wasn't all madness. There were the clear voices among them, the

words of people who understood. Yours was among them..."

DR. COSBEY FEELS that the Board of Education, whose legal function it is to determine courses, curriculum, and materials, should not be prejudiced or pressured by resolutions of the City Council. He said "it is a terrible shame that there were only a half-dozen teachers at this hearing and about 150 bigots." Dr. Cosbey predicts that "the Board will make a mild objection to the City Council's resolution, wait a few weeks, and then quietly remove the book."

SAB Vote Of Confidence

Retain Editor; Propose Look At Code Of Ethics

The Student Activities Board Friday extended the appointment of interim Torch editor James Holland to the end of the spring 1965 semester and established a committee to review the Roosevelt Canons of Journalism and Policies Applicable to Torch Operation.

At a previous SAB meeting January 9, the board voted to uphold its original decision to bar former editor Judi Halprin and her five-man editorial board from all Torch activities.

The investigation of Miss Halprin and her associates had been reactivated earlier at the urging of attorney Ronald Silverman of the American Civil Liberties Union, representing the ousted editors, who said he had "new evidence" to present.

As a result of meetings with Mr. Silverman, the investigation sub-committee prepared two opposing reports for the SAB's consideration.

ONE REPORT reaffirmed the December 1 decision to relieve the old editors of all duties on the Torch. It was written by Charles Garland, associate professor of music theory and composition; Joseph Hackman, associate professor of economics; and student Sharon Spigel.

The other report requested that the editors be reinstated. It was prepared by Donald Kirschner, associate professor of history; and students Malcom Kovacs and Penny Schwartz.

THE ADOPTED document charged the former Torch editorial board members with bad faith for printing the 4-page wraparound addition to the November 16 issue because they did not satisfactorily confer with their faculty advisors.

"At the very time that the SAB was arriving at its recommendation (that the editors could continue to publish the Torch if they adhered to the Roosevelt Canons of Journalism and an SAB directive) the editor and the editorial board had already decided to print a 4-page addition..."

"The students have claimed that they communicated with the Torch advisors, but this claim is clearly disingenuous. They telephoned the advisors not

to arrange to meet as they knew they were required to do, but just to inform them what they had already done or were about to do."

THE REPORT also claimed that the former editorial board "had no scruples about dealing carelessly with the truth," citing three specific situations as supporting evidence:

- That the students pleaded "puzzlement" as to the identity of the person or persons who delivered copies of the Torch issue containing the "bulletin" to the major Chicago newspapers and radio stations, although it was established that "at least in one instance, the delivery to one of the newspapers was made by Miss Halprin personally";

- That the editor and the editorial board deny asking the American Civil Liberties Union to intervene on their behalf, although the investigating committee was told by the representative of the ACLU that "this is not in accordance with the facts";

- And that Miss Halprin told the committee that her sources would not permit her to release their identities, although she later admitted in the face of contradictory evidence that "she had not asked any of her sources to release her, and) that her earlier statement to the committee on this matter was false."

The report proposing reinstatement noted some "bad faith and misrepresentation on the part of Miss Halprin and the former editorial board," but said "the passage of time has afforded a greater perspective in the review of this issue which has made the offense appear less grievous."

"New information presented to the committee... corroborated the fact that on a number of occasions a high university source had provided the former editor with what appeared to be impressive data."

In addition, the report stated that the strict application of the Canons of Journalism and Summary of SAB activities was "inconsistent" with past enforcement and therefore invalidated the prosecution of the former Torch staff.

Alumni Tank Gets Tiger For Fund-Raising Effort

A spirit of qualified optimism characterized the kickoff meeting and dinner of Roosevelt's 1965 fund-raising campaign—Monday, January 11, in Altgeld Hall—as university alumni and administrators confronted the "tempestuous times for all of us at RU" (—Board of Trustees chairman Lyle Spencer); deplored the recent Torch crisis and reaffirmed the principles of academic freedom and enterprise on which the university was founded (—Spencer and President Rolf Weil); and explored the prospects of brighter horizons (—Spencer, Weil, Alumni Association president William Rosenthal, and campaign chairman Bob Kamin).

Kamin, who will head up the 1965 fund drive with stress on membership in the Edward J. Sparling Society (composed of alumni who have contributed at least \$50 to the university), opened the proceedings with a welcoming and introductory speech.

ROOSEVELT TRUSTEE Jerome Robinson introduced Spencer, who reiterated much of his January 9 speech to the Faculty Senate, calling again for a 3-year financial plan and budget cut to wipe out the \$575,000 deficit incurred by the university, and a dialogue between faculty members and trustees to establish constructive and definitive goals for the school.

Reviewing the emergency campaign to bolster the university's financial outlook, Spencer stressed the prospects of growing enrollment; budget cutting; availability of unrestricted

funds; and acceleration of fund-raising activities.

PRESIDENT WEIL, introduced by Kamin, began his speech with amusing reminiscences about his past 19 years at Roosevelt.

Referring to the Torch incident, he said that "RU is proud of its mediocrity," and that if the university didn't tolerate them, "We wouldn't have the spirit we have—and may it never die."

Weil spoke on "where we are" (reviewing positive and negative aspects of the university situation) and "where we might go" (proposing prospects and plans for a brighter academic and financial future).

ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, he said the school is operating at capacity with a good faculty and administration and a marked improvement in admissions.

On the negative side, he stressed an immediate need for funds. ("Deficit financing does not really work for us.")

HE SUGGESTED state subsidization of private institutions since they are cheaper and more beneficial to the taxpayer and provide more efficient use of educational facilities.

In the past, said Weil, RU has been an institution of opportunity and of a "majority of minorities." For the future, he proposed, the university can place added emphasis on student quality, create a more stimulating intellectual climate, "cherish its atmosphere of freedom," and work for fiscal soundness.

Concluding the program on behalf of the alumni, chairman

Kamin vowed that they would do their share, noting that three of their fund-raising workers were present at the meeting and that 31 other had promised to aid the '65 campaign as workers or sponsors.

HE POINTED OUT that despite the comparative youth of the Alumni Association ("Few universities are 20 years old"), the school now has 3,000 alumni of whom 6,000 contribute annually to Roosevelt ("the same percentage as that of most other universities").

Kamin said that a program to do better in the future would be launched Sunday evening, February 21, at the third annual Sparling Society dinner in the Buckingham Room of the Continental Hotel, where Charles W. Gray, chairman of the Illinois Fair Employment Practices Committee, would hold forth as guest speaker, and alumni would receive complimentary dinners (regular cost for spouses and guests).

Final Week

Final examination schedule for the week January 25-30.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:25	8:30			
12:45	11:20			
3:25	2:05			
6:00	4:40			
8:45	7:25			
8:25	9:55			
11:25	12:45			
4:40	3:25			
7:25	6:00			
	8:45			
10:25				
2:05				

Classes meeting one day a week: examinations begin at the regular starting time of the class. Examination will be of two hour length.

Great Society May Result In Asian War, Claims Morse

BY RAY CHASE

"The era of white rule in Asia is finished, whether it takes the form of economic exploitation through direct rule or the form of manipulating governments to protect what we regard to be our interest—the postwar American form of colonialism."

SO STATED Democratic Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon Friday in a speech on "The Crisis in Viet Nam" at the Illinois Institute of Technology before a joint university forum in which Roosevelt's Labor Education Division participated.

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"Refusal of the Administration to explain what our planes are doing in Laos means that the American people are getting a foreign policy of concealment in that part of the world. They are entitled to know what is being done in their name in Laos and Viet Nam. They are entitled to know whether the United States is escalating the war in Asia, and if so, to what extent and for what purpose."

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Tribute To A Mentor

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While conveying a spellbinding account of Gatheru's determination, the Kikuyu youth's autobiography, aptly titled "Child of Two Worlds," stresses how a few dedicated individuals — at great personal sacrifice — have aided countless African students to achieve college education.

THE PERSON most responsible for the spiritual and financial maintenance of Mugo Gatheru emerges in the book as the famed Dr. Drake, whose influence as friend and adviser in determining the course Gatheru would take during his educational life in the US is recounted on page after page.

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his own pocket to arrange for Gatheru's transportation in the US during the early 1950's; and when Gatheru received his degree from Lincoln University (he writes in the book), he was lonesome and disappointed to be without family at the time and wondered why Dr. Drake did not attend.

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The 7th Dawn
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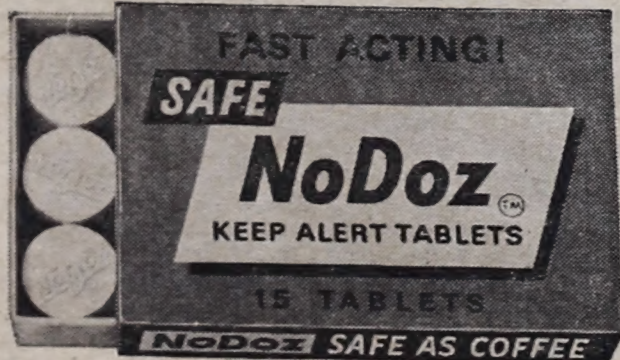
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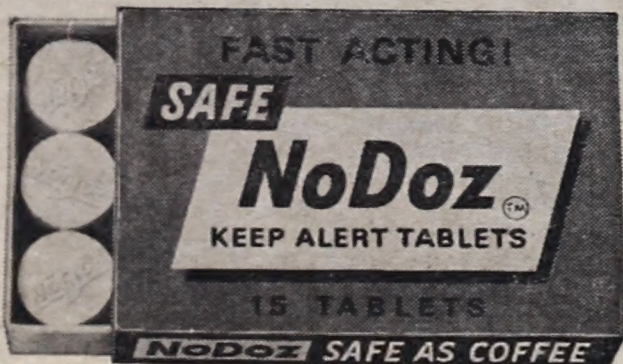
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Mourn Dramatist Who Happened to be Negro

BY SHELLY TRESHANSKY

Lorraine Hansberry, a former Roosevelt art student who captured the hearts of the world with a play titled "Raisin in the Sun," died of cancer January 12 at the age of 34 in New York's University Hospital.

The famed author, who insisted she was "a writer who happens to be a Negro," was the first Negro woman to compose a Broadway production and the first Negro playwright to win the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for best play of a season, outshining Tennessee Williams, Archibald MacLeish, and Eugene O'Neill in 1959.

"RAISIN," which starred Sidney Poitier, Claudia McNeil, Ruby Dee, and Diana Sands, ran for 19 months in New York, changing the minds of some people who had viewed all plays about Negroes as "box-office poison." It was the first play produced for the then-28-year-old writer whom the New York

Times described as "the slim, cheery, talkative young woman with the gay, flashing smile."

Miss Hansberry was noted for her deep involvement in the struggles of human beings, overpowering her natural shyness to address civil rights and peace groups on the need of a swift social revolution for Negroes. (One of her last requests was that Dr. Martin Luther King administer her last rites.)

ON THE EVE of her death, Miss Hansberry's latest play "The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window," which drew mixed notices from the critics, was extending its October 15 opening at New York's Longacre Theater on a week-to-week basis via funds raised by theatrical people, clergymen, and others who were impressed by its story of the tragicomic search for values of a Jewish intellectual and his actress wife in Greenwich Village.

Ex-Roosevelt student writes novel about Chicago College Students

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The culminating event on the social calendar of the February 1965 Graduating Class will be the traditional dinner dance to be held February 5, in the Mayfair Room of the Sheraton-Blackstone Hotel. There will be a reception prior to the dinner in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Rolf A. Weil at 6 p.m. in the French Room.

Following the dinner President Weil will address the graduates and their guests. Class President Jeffrey Markoshan will also speak and will make the presentation of the class gift.

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Mourn Dramatist Who Happened to be Negro

BY SHELLY TRESHANSKY

Lorraine Hansberry, a former Roosevelt art student who captured the hearts of the world with a play titled "Raisin in the Sun," died of cancer January 12 at the age of 34 in New York's University Hospital.

The famed author, who insisted she was "a writer who happens to be a Negro," was the first Negro woman to compose a Broadway production and the first Negro playwright to win the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for best play of a season, outshining Tennessee Williams, Archibald MacLeish, and Eugene O'Neill in 1959.

"RAISIN," which starred Sidney Poitier, Claudia McNeil, Ruby Dee, and Diana Sands, ran for 19 months in New York, changing the minds of some people who had viewed all plays about Negroes as "box-office poison." It was the first play produced for the then-28-year-old writer whom the New York

Times described as "the slim, cheery, talkative young woman with the gay, flashing smile."

Miss Hansberry was noted for her deep involvement in the struggles of human beings, overpowering her natural shyness to address civil rights and peace groups on the need of a swift social revolution for Negroes. (One of her last requests was that Dr. Martin Luther King administer her last rites.)

ON THE EVE of her death, Miss Hansberry's latest play "The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window," which drew mixed notices from the critics, was extending its October 15 opening at New York's Longacre Theater on a week-to-week basis via funds raised by theatrical people, clergymen, and others who were impressed by its story of a Jewish intellectual and his actress wife in Greenwich Village.

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